LAWRENCE COUNTY

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Funding for transportation
- 2. Obtain more funding for detention beds

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Lack of community awareness of availability of community resources

Policy Council Action Steps:

community awareness campaign

Lack of transportation to existing agencies and services

Policy Council Action Steps:

- recruit volunteers from local churches
- research if Kids One transportation is available for the county

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Lack of detention bed space for juvenile offenders

Policy Council Action Steps:

- research the availability of grants
- research possible city participation

Lack of community awareness of methamphetamine labs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- community education program with Law Enforcement, Employers, and general public
- media Campaign
- secure grant funding for prevention services

Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Lack of resource officers in the schools

Policy Council Action Steps:

seek funding opportunities

Lack of children passing the High School Exit Exam

Policy Council Action Steps:

- investigate resources for individual tutoring
- explore opportunities for funding for tutoring at local schools & churches

Early Care and

Education - Children (0-5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally

to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of night time day care

Policy Council Action Steps:

 recruit prospective child care providers

Lack of faith-based Pre-K schools and programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

investigate school readiness grant

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Lack of community awareness of jobs programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

 to provide program information at the county CPC meetings.

Lack of satellite services

Policy Council Action Steps:

investigate funding opportunities

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of parenting classes

Policy Council Action Steps:

contact extension office

Lack of Parent Project

Policy Council Action Steps:

 have someone trained as a trainer in the Parent Project

Policy Recommendation

- 1. Secure more funding for rural county social services and summer youth activities
- 2. Obtain more federal/state grant opportunities for faith base initiatives
- 3. More funding from Alabama Department of Children Affairs to hire an Americorps* VISTA volunteer and/or Executive Director to spearhead the CPC

LAWRENCE COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL 2005 NEEDS ASSESSMENT